

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ An apparatus for removal and filtration of drilling fluid ~~in during~~ top hole drilling, ~~where~~ wherein a suction module (10) comprises an elongated pipe-formed body (30), which is open at the top and is arranged to an ocean-bottom penetrating pipe, through which is led a drill stem for drilling of the top hole, and the pipe-formed body (30) comprises a filtration device with through openings, where said openings are arranged to let through to at least one outlet passage (32) in the pipe wall, filtered return drilling fluid containing dispersed material, such as swelling clay or stones,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein filtered return drilling fluid from the bore hole is exported to a pump module (12) through the at least one outlet passage (32) in the pipe wall, ~~where the material in the drilling fluid is being~~ of a size less ~~then~~ than the diameter of an inlet pipe of the pump or openings of the pump,

~~and that~~ the upper part of the pipe-formed body (30) is arranged to contain return drilling fluid, which is not fed to the pump module (12), and where ~~the level/volume a~~ volume of said drilling fluid stands as a "plug" above the outlet (32) ~~for of the pumps~~ suction pipe (22) of the pump and is ~~arranged to seal~~ sealed against the drill stem (16), and

the level of return drilling fluid in the pipe-formed body (30) being adjusted by regulation of the capacity of the pump (12).

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended): ~~Device-~~ The apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises a camera (38) and/or a sonar for monitoring of the level of the drilling fluid, ~~i.e. including~~ the "plug" of return drilling fluid, in the pipe-formed body (30), and that monitoring signals are sent to an operator for regulation of the capacity of the pump (12).

4. (currently amended): ~~Device-~~ The apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises measuring equipment for monitoring of the level of drilling fluid, ~~i.e. including~~ the "plug" of return drilling fluid, in the pipe-formed body (30), and that monitoring signals are sent to an operator, or directly to the pump (12) for regulation of the capacity of the pump.

5. (currently amended): ~~Device-~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the filtration device comprises an inner, elongated and arched, perforated filtration plate (40) where at least one annular space, or parts of an annular space that is closed at the top and/or at the bottom, is provided between the inner pipe wall of the pipe-formed body (30) and the inner perforated filtration plate (40).

6. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the annular space extends in the whole, or parts, of the longitudinal direction of the pipe-formed body (30) and/or its circumference.

7. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the elongated, perforated filtration plate (40) is formed in the shape of a pipe.

8. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the pipe wall of the pipe-formed body (30) comprises a number of outlet passages (32) arranged spaced apart radially around the pipe wall, where the outlet passages (32) are connected to the suction pipe (22) of the pump (12).

9. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ at least one of the outlet passages (32) in said pipe wall is connected to a suction manifold (34), and that the suction pipe (22) of the pump is connected to the suction manifold (34).

10. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction manifold (34) comprises a number of outlets with suction connection for the pump (12).

11. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises a lifting loop (42), or another appliance for connection of a lifting tool.

12. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) and the pump module (12) are integrated with each other.

13. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises measuring equipment for monitoring of the level of drilling fluid, ~~i.e., including~~ the "plug" of return drilling fluid, in the pipe-formed body (30), and that monitoring signals are sent to an operator, or directly to the pump (12) for regulation of the capacity of the pump.

14. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the filtration device comprises an inner, elongated and arched, perforated filtration plate (40) where at least one annular space, or parts of an annular space that is closed at the top and/or at the bottom, is provided between the inner pipe wall of the pipe-formed body (30) and the inner perforated filtration plate (40).

15. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the elongated, perforated filtration plate (40) is formed in the shape of a pipe.

16. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the pipe wall of the pipe-formed body (30) comprises a number of outlet passages (32) arranged spaced apart radially around the pipe wall, where the outlet passages (32) are connected to the suction pipe (22) of the pump (12).

17. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the pipe wall of the pipe-formed body (30) comprises a number of outlet passages (32) arranged spaced apart radially around the pipe wall, where the outlet passages (32) are connected to the suction pipe (22) of the pump (12).

18. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises a lifting loop (42), or another appliance for connection of a lifting tool.

19. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the suction module (10) comprises a lifting loop (42), or another appliance for connection of a lifting tool.

20. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The apparatus according to claim 11, characterised  
~~in that~~ wherein the suction module (10) and the pump module (12) are integrated with  
each other.